

CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Fall 2013

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City working hard to combat gang violence

Over the last several months, the city has taken several steps to prevent and reduce the gang violence and robberies that have recently increased after two years of dropping crime rates. In addition, the city is currently working to coordinate with other law enforcement agencies and other community agencies to focus their services on combatting the gang violence.

Funding for these initiatives comes primarily from salary savings in this year's budget, but additional funding will be needed in next year's budget to maintain the expanded efforts.



Latest crime stats

- January - October, 2013: Violent crime increased 22% compared to same period last year
- January - October, 2013: Property crimes such as burglaries and larceny decreased by 5% compared to same period last year
- WPD intelligence reports attribute increased violence to gangs
- Increased violent crimes reflective of national trends

"Safety in our community is the city's greatest responsibility and we take that very seriously. We will continue to focus our efforts to address the issue of gang violence."

— City Manager Sterling Cheatham

Following are highlights of the city's most recent efforts to reduce crime:

Gang Unit

New 5-member gang unit of specially trained investigators who will not only arrest gang members after they commit crimes, but will also work to dismantle gang networks.

Full staffing

Authorization to hire and train 10 "over hire" positions, which means 10 officers who will be trained and ready to step into employment any time there is a vacancy at the WPD, instead of having to wait for officers to complete the required training that takes six months to complete.

Expanded housing unit patrols

New 14-man patrol unit in public housing areas; the unit will be made up of seven WPD officers and seven deputies from the New Hanover County Sheriff's Department.

Expanded patrols around city

There are now 64 officers—32 from the WPD and 32 from the NHC Sheriff's Department—who are providing expanded patrols throughout the community.

Mobile Field Force

The MFF is a 12-officer unit geared up to respond quickly to crime, or fear of crime, anywhere in the city. The MFF became operational last spring and consists of two teams—one team of six uniformed patrol officers and another team of six undercover officers.

Holiday Celebrations

Rotary Garden tree lighting
Thursday, December 5 at 5:30 p.m.
1941 Amphitheater Drive,
at Rotary Wheel
Note: This event replaces the tree lighting at Sweeney Water Plant and will include a holiday movie to be shown at the nearby Greenfield Lake Amphitheatre.
Details: wilmingtonnc.gov/greenfieldtree

Downtown tree lighting
Friday, November 29, 6 p.m.
Old Wachovia parking lot
Corner of Princess and Water streets

Downtown holiday parade
Sunday, December 8, 5:40 p.m.
Parade route: wilmingtonnc.gov/holidayparade

 wilmingtonnc.gov/police

Investing in our future 5 YEAR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

More city streets paved

City streets crews, stormwater crews, and contractors continue to work repaving streets identified in the city's 5-year plan to improve infrastructure. Over the last several months, more than 10 lane miles have been paved, including:

- Park Avenue between Hawthorne Drive and Greenville Avenue
- 52nd Street between Oleander and Hawthorne drives
- Oriole Drive between Racine and Cardinal drives
- Clear Run Drive between College Acres and Cardinal drives
- Mallard Street between Rill Road and Widgeon Drive
- Rose Avenue between Riegel and Hooker roads
- Portion of Barksdale Road
- Portion of North Hampton Road
- Portion of Jeb Stuart Drive
- Portion of Longstreet Drive
- Section of Brookshire Lane

Major projects this spring include paving Greenville Loop Road and additional sections of Cardinal/Clear Run drives. The city is coordinating street paving projects with the CFPUA pipe replacement program. This coordination is essential so that recently paved roads are not dug up for pipe replacement.



Rose Avenue being paved



Rose Avenue after paving completed

 wilmingtonnc.gov/5yearplan

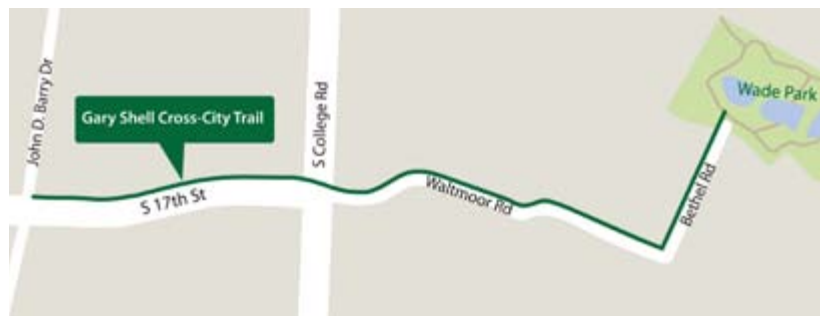
Cross-City Trail almost complete

Next month, the city will begin work on a 1.3-mile section of the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail along the 17th Street Extension and Waltmoor Road, running from John D. Barry Drive, across South College Road and down to Wade Park. This project will be complete in the summer of 2014.

As part of this project, stormwater drainage improvements will be installed on portions of Waltmoor and Bethel roads and South 17th Street will be repaved. Crosswalks and pedestrian signals will also be installed at the South College Road/South 17th Street intersection. The \$2.1 million project is funded through a collaborative effort involving the state and federal DOT's, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NC, the 2006 voter-approved parks bond, and the city's 5-year plan to improve infrastructure.

Approximately 12 miles of the trail are now complete and this 1.3 mile section is one of the last remaining sections of the trail to be constructed. Two other connections that are outstanding are both in the design phase—a section that will go underneath US 74/76 at the Heide Trask Drawbridge at Wrightsville Beach, and a section along Randall Parkway that will be built as part of the 2015 NCDOT Kerr Avenue widening project.

When finished, the trail will be 15 miles long and will stretch from Wade Park in the southern part of the city to the Heide Trask Drawbridge in Wrightsville Beach.



 wilmingtonnc.gov/crosscitytrail


What happened to the government channel?

Time Warner Cable has switched their Basic TV service to an all-digital cable signal. In order to see the city's government channel GTV8 on older analog TVs, customers will need to get a Digital Adapter from Time Warner Cable. Newer, flat-screen tvs should already be able to access Channel 8.

There is no initial cost for a digital adapter. However, starting January 2014, customers will be billed 99 cents per adapter each month. Digital adapters can be ordered at:

Web: twc.com/digitaladapter
Call: 1-855-286-1736
Visit: Time Warner Cable store

GTV8 is only shown on local TV through Time Warner Cable. Viewers can also see GTV8 programming live and on-demand on the city's website at wilmingtonnc.gov

 910-341-4675

WFD Memorial complete

The Wilmington Firefighters Memorial, located at the Empie Park Fire Station, was officially dedicated on September 11 at Empie Park Fire Station.

The memorial honors the seven Wilmington firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty since the department began in the mid 1800s, as well as the 343 NYC firefighters who perished during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. The memorial is surrounded by seven statues representing Wilmington's fallen firefighters. A bronze statue of a firefighter in the center holds a piece of steel recovered from the World Trade Center following the attack on 9-11.

The cost of the memorial and its installation was funded through private donations. The public is invited to stop by the station and visit the memorial.



Close-up of 1 of 7 statues with informational markers that recognize WFD's seven fallen firefighters



Center statue holding piece of steel from World Trade Center



WFD Color Guard at memorial unveiling



People from all over attended unveiling

Recycling outreach and education

In early 2013, the city's Solid Waste office launched a recycling education and outreach program to support recycling in the community. 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle More with the City of Wilmington' is the program theme.

Initiatives include reaching out to local community groups and schools to present information and lessons on recycling. Citizens may also see a recycling representative at local events, providing the most up-to-date information on the city's recycling program.

City residents who are interested in having a representative speak to their community group or classroom to learn more about recycling can contact the city for more information.



 910-341-7875

 recycleoutreach@wilmingtonnc.gov

 wilmingtonnc.gov/recycling

New section of north Riverwalk opens

The newest section of the northern riverwalk, adjacent to the planned marina, will open in November. Construction has begun on the final section north of the marina and is expected to be complete this spring.



A short 300-foot connection will be completed as part of a planned project next year, providing a continuous 1.75 mile riverwalk from Chandler's Wharf on the south end of downtown to the Isabel Holmes Bridge on the northern end.

Cross City Trail open on Randall Parkway

Pictured at right, cyclists enjoy the newest section of the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail, which runs adjacent to the recently widened portion of Randall Parkway. The widening of Randall should be complete in February. The western half is already complete and crews are now working on the section between Kerr Avenue and College Road.





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General Information Phone Numbers

Citizen Services Information341-7800
Emergency911
Police/Non-Emergency343-3600
To find the police district assigned to your neighborhood,
see wilmingtonnc.gov/police
Fire/Non-Emergency341-7846
Parks and Recreation341-7855
Parks Hotline341-7852
Street Maintenance341-7879
Parking762-5678
Zoning254-0900
Trash pickup/Recycling341-7875
Stormwater341-4646
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority332-6550
Code Enforcement341-3266

Look for the  for information

Want to receive this newsletter by email?

In an effort to save money and trees, citizens
can sign up to receive this newsletter by email
instead of direct mail. If you are interested,
please email the city with your name and
regular mailing address to:

newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are generally held on
the first and third Tuesday of the month at
6:30 p.m. at City Hall. For more information,
see the city's web site at: wilmingtonnc.gov

City Council Meetings on GTV8

Council meetings are broadcast live on GTV8,
the city channel on Timewarner Cable. Council
meetings are replayed:

- ~ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week of
the Council meeting at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- ~ Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week after
the Council meeting at 11:30 p.m.

This Week From City Hall

Catch a summary of city events and activities on
GTV8's "This Week From City Hall," airing twice
daily at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. New episodes are
available on the 1st and 15th of each month.

GTV8 online

All GTV8 programming can be found on the city's
website, live or on-demand. From the front page,
simply click on "online videos." Then, select the
program you want to watch.



The city on the web
wilmingtonnc.gov



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